

Message Text

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73

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INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 00792

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, WB

SUBJECT: BERLIN ENERGY SUPPLY

1. AN ECONOMICS MINISTRY SOURCE HAS BRIEFED US ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE EAST CONCERNING BERLIN'S ENERGY SUPPLY.

2. ELECTRICITY. OUR SOURCE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE FRG MIGHT BE CAUGHT IN A VICIOUS CIRCLE IN REGARD TO NEGOTIATIONS OVER THE DELIVERY OF A NUCLEAR POWER PLANT TO THE SOVIET UNION. THE SOVIETS MAY NOT BE WILLING TO APPLY SUFFICIENT PRESSURE
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ON THE GDR TO OBTAIN THEIR APPROVAL FOR THE POWER

LINE WHICH WOULD DELIVER ELECTRICITY TO THE FRG TO PASS THROUGH WEST BERLIN UNTIL COCOM APPROVAL FOR THE EXPORT OF THE PLANT TO THE USSR IS OBTAINED. THE UK/US ON THE OTHER HAND MAY HOLD UP ON COCOM APPROVAL UNTIL AGREEMENT ON THE BERLIN ISSUE IS REACHED BETWEEN SOVIETS AND GDR. THE POLISH OFFER OF EARLY 1973 TO SUPPLY BERLIN WITH ELECTRICITY REMAINS ON THE BACK BURNER. HERE TOO THE GDR HAS REFUSED TO PERMIT A LINE FROM POLAND TO THE FRG TO PASS DIRECTLY THROUGH WEST BERLIN. THE GDR ITSELF EXPRESSED ITS INTEREST IN THE SPRING OF 1974 IN THE PURCHASE OF A NUCLEAR POWER PLANT WHICH IT WOULD PAY FOR WITH ELECTRICITY DELIVERIES TO BOTH THE FRG AND WEST BERLIN. ACCORDING TO ANOTHER SOURCE THE GDR INTENDED TO BUILD THIS PLANT ON THE ELBA POSSIBLY IN MAGDEBURG. THE FRG ADVISED KRAFTWERK UNION (KWU), THE GERMAN FIRM INVOLVED, NOT TO MAKE A SPECIFIC OFFER TO THE GDR SINCE THE FRG WOULD PREFER TO EXPLORE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION. LITTLE CONSIDERATION IS BEING GIVEN TO THE EAST GERMAN OFFER OF 300 MEGAWATTS OF ELECTRICITY MADE IN CONNECTION WITH THE NEGOTIATIONS OVER THE EXTENSION OF THE SWING CREDIT.

3. OIL AND GAS. NEGOTIATIONS OVER THE EXPANSION OF THE EAST GERMAN PETROLEUM REFINERY IN SCHWEDT WERE TERMINATED ON JANUARY 10 AND THE PROJECT IS NOW DEAD. THE PROPOSED PIPE LINE FROM SCHWEDT TO WEST BERLIN HAS ALSO FALLEN BY THE WAYSIDE. ON NOVEMBER 12 SOVIET AMBASSADOR FALIN INFORMED CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT OF THE SOVIET UNION'S WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NATURAL GAS OR METHANE PIPE LINE TO WEST BERLIN AS A SPUR OF A PIPE LINE BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND THE FRG. THIS PROPOSAL IS CURRENTLY BEING CONSIDERED BY THE ECONOMICS MINISTRY AND THE SENAT.

4. THERE CONTINUES TO BE CONSIDERABLE PRESS INTEREST IN THE QUESTION OF BERLIN'S ELECTRICITY SUPPLY ESPECIALLY THE POWER PLANT FOR THE USSR. (SEE CONFIDENTIAL

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BONN 354) RECENT ARTICLES NOTED THAT BOTH FRANCE AND CANADA HAVE WITHDRAWN THEIR ORIGINAL OBJECTIONS AND SPECULATION ON THE US OBJECTIONS RANGES FROM COMMERCIAL COMPETITION TO THE ISSUE OF IAEA SAFEGUARDS UNDER THE NPT CASH

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